

NOD FOR RM80 MILLION PRIMARY CARE, DAYCARE CENTRE IN UNIMAS

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KUCHING: The federal government has approved RM80 million for a Primary Care and Daycare Centre in Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas).

Unimas' Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences' dean Prof Dr Ahmad Hata Rasit said the proposed facility would serve multiple objectives, including training postgraduate students.

It would have three operating theatres and ambulatory services, including consultation, clinical and surgical, for the public, too.

"The facility will operate during office hours and without wards," he told reporters after witnessing the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between Unimas and Eye Specialist Centre Kuching at University House yesterday.

Present were BN candidate for Asajaya Datuk Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah and Unimas vice chancellor Prof Dato Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi.

"This project, under the 10th and 11th Malaysia Plan, will definitely benefit the community, especially those in Kota Samarahan," said Hata.

He hoped work on the centre near the main entrance of Unimas could start early next year and be operational by 2020.

Meanwhile, Kadim said the centre would be a part of the 300-bed Teaching Hospital, which was proposed quite some time ago to be built within the campus.

"We hope the Teaching Hospital can materialise soon. It can, among others, improve healthcare services in Samarahan and Serian Divisions."

Kadim added that the master plan for this project was ready as planning had been done.

"We are just waiting for the grant to be awarded.

"We see the approval for this centre as a sign the government is seriously looking into the plan to build the Teaching Hospital in Unimas campus."

The plan to build a Teaching Hospital had been there for years, but it was only last year that the relevant parties held serious discussions with the state and federal governments.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Unimas, Unimas Holdings Sdn Bhd and the developer was signed last November.

The three parties were reported to be finalising some details before signing a formal agreement and then forward it to the Cabinet for the final decision.

Unimas has set aside about 40 acres for this project, also near the campus entrance for easy public access.